

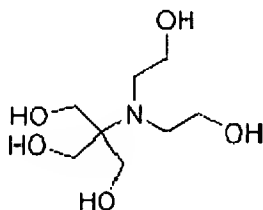
REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Remaining Claims

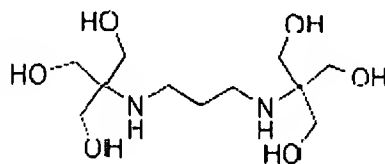
Seventeen (17) claims (Claims 1 – 8 and 10 – 18) remain pending in this application.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 8 and 10 – 18 under 35 USC §103(a) - Tsuzuki, et al.

Claims 1 – 8 and 10 – 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious under US Patent No. 6,121,327 to *Tsuzuki, et al.* Specifically, Examiner contends that *Tsuzuki, et al.* teach a lens disinfecting solution containing 0.5% by weight of Bis-TRIS buffer. Examiner is correct in this. However, Examiner is mistaken in equating "Bis-TRIS" as disclosed in *Tsuzuki, et al.* with the "bis-TRIS propane" disclosed and claimed in the present application. Instead, the "bis-TRIS" of *Tsuzuki, et al.* is (as stated in column 11, lines 58-59) "bis(2-hydroxyethyl)iminotris(hydroxymethyl)methane" (sic). This compound is CAS No. 6976-37-0 and has the following structure:



The preferred compound of the present invention, on the other hand, is 1,3-Bis[tris(hydroxymethyl)methylamino]propane (CAS 64431-96-5), which has the following structure:



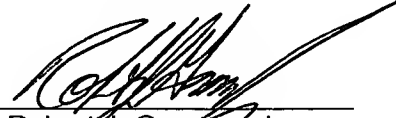
This compound is claimed in Claim 1, wherein a, b, c, d, e, f, g, and h are all 1 and R and R' are both -H. On the other hand, comparison, of the structure of bis-TRIS with claim 1, will show that the buffers disclosed by *Tsuzuki, et al.* do not fall within the scope of the present claims.

Accordingly, because *Tsuzuki, et al.* does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that the 35 USC §103 rejection set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that the pending claims are not obvious over the cited art, either individually or in combination. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection(s) set-forth in the Office Action. Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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